

KING COUNTY ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Planning Retreat

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Members Present: Linda Brown, Joan Clement, Nancy Code, Jim Harbaugh, Joyce Proudlock, Bob Seidensticker, Yasmin Smith

Members Excused: Scott Strawn (awaiting Executive appointment), Keith Williams

Staff Attending: Sherry Hamilton, Jackie MacLean, Geoff Miller, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

The Planning Retreat of the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) was convened at Dutch Shisler Sobering Center, 1930 Boren Avenue in Seattle. Dinner was served at 4:30pm. While eating dinner, Chairman Jim Harbaugh called the meeting to order.

I. LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Sherry Hamilton presented and briefly explained the three legislative proposals:

1. **Mental Health funding:** King County is losing \$12M for Regional Support Network (RSN) services due to re-distribution of mental health funding as a result of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's (JLARC) recommendation. King County supports a statewide distribution formula based on the prevalence and severity of mental illness. The Division has designated Shelle Crosby as our lead person for the prevalence study that the State Mental Health Division is conducting.
2. **Community-Based Substance Abuse Service Treatment Funding:** Chemical dependency services treatments have been underfunded in the State of Washington and in King County. As a result, there is a long waiting list for treatment. In addition, less than 20% of the low-income persons in need of treatment in the County can be served within available resources. This problem is compounded by the present treatment reimbursements rates for residential treatment, which is significantly less than the average payment rates in the nation. Recently a coalition of residential treatment providers met with Ken Stark, DASA Director, to discuss a plan to lobby the legislature for increased residential rates. The group was told that vendor increases were not likely to happen this year and if they were to occur in the future they would be incremental.
3. **Treatment vs. incarceration for MH and CD:** Treatment for chemically dependent and mentally ill people is significantly less costly than court and criminal justice costs. Alternative treatment programs rather than incarceration will draw more savings to local and state correctional institutions. We will watch the development of the sentencing reform bill (ESSB 5419). If the bill passes, we hope to see a redistribution of Department of Correction funds to the substance abuse treatment system. There is an

alarming increase in use and addiction to methamphetamine. Patrick and Geoff will develop a position on the methamphetamine addiction prevention/treatment issue.

The fourth legislative proposal, which proposes to reduce pharmaceutical costs, died. Sherry will work with Sharon Farmer and Eleanor Owen to flesh out this legislation.

The Joint Legislative Team will meet on Thursday, September 27, 2001 to discuss further the legislative items. This will be presented at the Legislative Forum on Tuesday, November 27, 2001 at 7:00 pm. The board suggested checking out school auditoriums for a possible site for this year's Legislative Forum.

Sherry will give an update on the Legislative Forum at the regular board meeting on October 11, 2001.

There was a discussion about lack of support from our local councilmembers on these legislative issues. The board was encouraged to call or educate their respective legislators about chemical dependency issues.

II. CHAT PROVISIO

Jean Robertson distributed copies of the Cedar Hills Addiction Treatment Facility Budget Proviso Response for board review and feedback. The board spent half an hour to scan through the document.

The newly revised document contained intensive background information about CHAT, the challenges it faces, the financial picture and the future of CHAT. Under the last item, the document proposed two options:

1. Reduce in size and specialize; or
2. The County withdraws from direct management of the facility.

Discussion followed. At the outset, the board pointed out that CHAT has long been a focal capacity for residential treatment in King County for the chemically dependent, those suffering from co-occurring disorders, HIV-AIDS and very chronic complex medical clients. CHAT has offered hope and a road to recovery for many King County residents.

The Board is aware that current reimbursement rates for residential treatment are inadequate to cover the costs of doing service. They recognize this is not solely a CHAT problem. All other residential treatment providers in the state are faced with the current rates. The Board's main concern is the retention of the residential treatment capacity of 202 beds within King County. In light of a potential closure of CHAT, the Board recommended that contingency plans include the negotiation with DASA of the retention of the residential treatment beds in King County.

The Board will write a letter to King County Executive Ron Sims to express their concerns regarding retention of residential treatment beds and services to special population in King

County. This letter will be part of the CHAT proviso response packet to be forwarded to King County Executive's Office.

III. FUTURE BOARD ACTIVITIES

A. Suggested Board Activities

- Revitalize Liaison or Advocacy role. Agency Site Visits will be revived. Rhoda will coordinate this with Division contract staff.
- Continue Legislative Advocacy
- Conduct Public Hearings
- Review By-Laws. Rhoda will provide copies for board review
- Work on Initiatives as described in the 2001-2003 Biennial Plan
- Evaluate services of both Treatment and Prevention programs in King County
- Look at how integration is working

B. Change of Meeting Schedule

There was a request from one of the board members, Yasmin Smith, to change the schedule of the regular board meeting due to her graduate school schedule. Currently, the meeting is held every second Thursday of the month at 12 noon-1:30pm at the Dutch Shisler Sobering Center, 1930 Boren Avenue in Seattle. It was suggested to hold it on the second Tuesday of the month, same time and place. All the board members present at the planning meeting indicated their willingness to accommodate the request. Rhoda will poll other board members about their availability every second Tuesday of the month.

C. Future Board Presentation

The board would like to feature the following in future meetings:

- Linkages between Mental Health and Chemical Dependency
- Prevention Update
- TASC Update (after 2 years)
- Sentencing Reform - to understand how criminal justice is re-shaping its system
- Drug Court

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Jim Harbaugh
Board Chairman